REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) in view of U.S. patent 5,987,247 to Lau.

The claimed invention relates to a method of transmitting, displaying, and interacting events with a user. The invention allows a user to input tasks that achieve a goal upon completion and further to allow the user to input rules which dictate which tasks will be selected based on the events. These features greatly enhance the processing of insurance claims as specific tasks are outputted to the user as required. The invention may be used for example in any business related environment where users may request, change, or interact with data for claims processing.

Lau '247 teaches in column 5 a computer system that "assists a developer to produce object oriented programs used in a three tier architecture for mission critical applications". Lau very broadly sets forth in columns 1-6 that in order to achieve some type of business goal, object oriented programs are much more desirable than prior art methods. Regarding the claim language, the Examiner points to Figures 3 and 5 of Lau to teach the recited features of claims 1-21. In the rejection of the claims, the Examiner asserts that the claimed "data component" , "controller component" , "adapter component" and "business logic component" are elements 300, 305, 303 and 301 as shown in Figure 3 of Lau, and as described in column 8. With respect to the data component, the Examiner relies on the "storage system 300" of Lau. There is no teaching in Lau of the data component "manipulating data utilizing a plurality of functions" as claimed. Clearly a storage system does not manipulate data utilizing a plurality of functions. With respect to the claimed business component, the Examiner cites element 301 of Lau. There is no description in Lau of how element 301, the Business Logic Design, contains the recited feature of the business component "serving as a data cache and includes logic for manipulating the data". Column 8, lines 47-50, state that the "Business Logic Design 301 which was developed by business personnel or programmers is provided to the framework builder 300". Again, there is no teaching from Lau's description of the function that the claimed business component performs. The Examiner relies on element 306 of Lau to show the claimed "controller component". Element 306 of Lau is a display device. Applicant's assert that the display of Lau does not meet the claimed limitations of the "controller component adapted to

handle events generated by a user utilizing the business component to cache data and the adapter component ...". Finally, the Examiner points to Figures 4-5 to teach "the tasks and rules" as recited in the independent claims. There is absolutely no mention nor use of the words "task" and "rules" in these Figures or the description of these figures. It is unclear as to how the Examiner is interpreting Lau to contain "rules" and "tasks". Therefore Lau does not meet the specific claim language of claims 1,8 and 15 which recite wherein the client component is adapted for allowing a user to define tasks that achieve a goal upon completion, allowing the user to input rules which dictate which of the tasks should be selected based on predetermined events, receiving at least one event, and outputting the task which is selected based on the received event in accordance with the rules.

It is also noted that the controller component as recited in claim 8 contains the features of "dirty flag processing" and "providing validation". The Examiner has made no statement regarding these features in the Office Action. Lau simply does not contain or imply the use of such features.

In summary, the Lau reference may be interpreted to show the broad concepts of having data components, business components, and controller components, however the functional limitations found in the claims are not present in Lau. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1,8 and 15 define over Lau and the section 102 rejection be removed.

With respect to the dependent claims, 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21, these claims are deemed allowable in light of the arguments above concerning their respective independent claims. Furthermore, there is no discussion in the Office Action as to where or how the features of the dependent claims are contained in Lau. For example, claims 2,9 and 16 recite "indicating which tasks are complete". Again this is not taught nor suggested by Lau, as Lau is not concerned with "tasks". Therefore, the section 102 rejection of the dependent claims in view of Lau is also erroneous.

With respect to the section 112 rejection of claims 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19, these claims have been amended to avoid any confusion regarding what "another applications" and "other components" comprises. It is now recited that the events in the queue come from the data and client components. See for example page 158 of the specification for a discussion of the

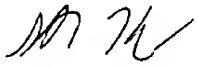
components of an event. In view of this discussion and claim amendments, the section 112 paragraph rejection is overcome.

Applicants also present new claims 22-31 which recite the instant invention as a system including a task engine, event processor and task assistant. Applicant's believe claims 22-31 define over Lau and all other cited prior art references.

In summary, Lau merely teaches "assisting a developer" to create software tools, but does not teach the claimed specific functions that the "components" accomplish. Applicant's request a reexamination of the claimed subject matter in light of the above comments and amendments. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below to further discuss the Application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due to our Deposit Account No. 02-3964 (Order No. 60021-36801, AND1P068).

Respectfully submitted,
OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY, LLP



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Marked up version of claims

4. The computer program as set forth in claim 3, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the data [other] component[s of a system].

5. The computer program as set forth in claim 3, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the client component [other applications].

11. The computer program as set forth in claim 10, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the data [other] component[s of a system].

12. The computer program as set forth in claim 10, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the client component [other applications].

18. The computer program as set forth in claim 17, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the data [other] component[s of a system].

19. The computer program as set forth in claim 17, wherein the event queue is populated with events from the client component [other applications].